

## **FUN FISH – Every Toddler COUNTS**

### **Session 4: Listen Carefully – FOUR Posts – A Big Strong House**

**Memory Line:** “You are precious to me.” (Isaiah 43:4 NLT)

**Welcome:**

**Theme Song:** to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.*

*Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky.*

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star. God loves you just as you are.*

### **Number and Topic:**

Can you find the number FOUR around you? An elephant, a camel, and a lion all have FOUR legs. A chair has FOUR legs! But what if someone asked you to make a chair with four legs and you forgot. You only put on three. That chair would fall over. It is good to listen.

### **Bible Story: A Big Strong House (Matthew 7:24-27)**

Dolls, puppets or dressed up wooden spoons:

Jesus

Lazy man

Hard working man

**Materials needed:** (feel free to swap the materials with what you have)

Four logs (sticks are fine)

bucket (plastic bowl works well)

book and cup

### **Reflective Time (interactive):**

Sometimes it is hard to listen well and follow instructions. But if you do, you can do things well.

**Bean Bag Prayer:** “Dear God, help me to listen carefully. Amen.”

**Sing a song:**

“Every Toddler COUNTS” card for this session:



#### **Story 4: A Big Strong House (parable of the house on sand Matt 7:24-27)**

Jesus told a story and he said, "Listen carefully..."

...There were two men who wanted to be neighbours. The first one was smart. He wasn't scared of hard work. The second one was smart, but he didn't like work.

"I'm going to build a house up on the hill," said the first man. "It will have FOUR strong walls. It will be safe." He picked up his bucket and climbed a hill.

"I'm going to build a house quick and easy," said the second man. "I will build it by the river in no time at all." He picked up FOUR logs.

The first man dug deep and filled his bucket with soil. He laid a foundation for his house. And no matter how hot and tired he felt, he kept right on working.

The second man didn't dig a foundation. He built his house on the sand. No digging. No sweating. He finished it that day. Then he read his book and had a cup of juice.

He called over to the first man who was still working up on the hill. "You're wasting your time. Ha! Ha! I'm the one who knows how to build a proper house."

The first man didn't stop. He built brick walls. He put up a strong roof. He finally finished and smiled. "This is a strong house," he said.

Suddenly it started raining, pouring. Thunder and lightning! The rain fell so fast, the river overflowed. It rose higher and high.

The lazy man closed his door. The water seeped in. He climbed out the window. He ran away. His house fell down with a CRASH!

The man on the hill looked out his window. "This house is strong," he said. "I am safe." His hard work paid off...

Jesus said, "...If you listen carefully to what I say, you will be safe."